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5 **UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT**
6 **CENTRAL DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA**
7 **WESTERN DIVISION**

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9 CENTER FOR BIOLOGICAL
10 DIVERSITY, et al.,

11 *Plaintiffs,*

12 v.

13 DOUG BURGUM, et al.,

14 *Defendants,*
15 and

16 SABLE OFFSHORE CORP.,

17 *Intervenor-Defendant.*

18
19 Case No. 2:24-cv-05459-MWC-MAA

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21 **[PROPOSED] ORDER**

22 Having considered the parties' cross-motions for summary judgment, the
23 oppositions thereto, and for good cause shown, it is hereby ORDERED that
24 Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment is GRANTED; that Federal Defendants'
25 Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment is DENIED; and that Intervenor-
Defendant's Cross-Motion for Summary Judgment is DENIED.

1 It is hereby DECLARED that the November 2023 lease extensions issued by
2 the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) are unlawful. In
3 extending 16 offshore oil and gas leases in the Santa Ynez Unit, BSEE's national
4 interest determination failed to consider relevant factors in violation of the Outer
5 Continental Shelf Lands Act and Administrative Procedure Act (APA). BSEE
6 considered only the potential positive aspects of restarting production and failed to
7 consider the negative consequences. In overlooking the potential adverse effects of
8 extending the leases to allow for the restart of the Santa Ynez Unit, BSEE's
9 determination is arbitrary and capricious.

10 It is further DECLARED that BSEE's categorical exclusion review for the
11 November 2023 lease extensions failed to adequately justify the agency's decision
12 not to prepare an environmental assessment or environmental impact statement.
13 BSEE improperly assumed that the Santa Ynez Unit would remain idle and failed
14 to consider the reasonably foreseeable consequences of approving the lease
15 extensions. Accordingly, BSEE's categorical exclusion review is unlawful and
16 violates the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and APA.

17 It is further DECLARED that BSEE's September 2024 approvals of two
18 applications for permits to modify (APMs) to enhance production at the Santa
19 Ynez Unit are unlawful and violate NEPA and the APA. BSEE's reliance on a
20 categorical exclusion and decision not to prepare an environmental assessment or
21 environmental impact statement fail for two reasons. First, there is no applicable
22 categorical exclusion in the Department of the Interior regulations that BSEE can
23 rely on for these particular APMS, and second, BSEE's determination that no
24 extraordinary circumstances are present is arbitrary and capricious.

25 It is further DECLARED that BSEE's continued reliance on prior
26 environmental impact statements from 1975 and 1984 violates NEPA in light of

1 evidence before the agency that there may be significant environmental impacts of
2 its lease extension and APM approvals—and the Santa Ynez Unit restart they
3 facilitate—that were not adequately analyzed in those older environmental
4 documents.

5 It is further ORDERED that the 2023 lease extensions for the Santa Ynez
6 Unit are VACATED; that the categorical exclusion review for the lease extensions
7 is VACATED; that the 2024 APMs are VACATED; that the categorical exclusion
8 reviews for the APMs are VACATED; and that BSEE is prohibited from issuing
9 any further approvals for the Santa Ynez Unit unless and until it complies with
10 OCSLA, NEPA, and the APA.

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12 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

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14 Dated: _____

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17 The Hon. Michelle Williams Court
18 United States District Court
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